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Application No.: 09/671,643
Office Action Dated: June 25, 2003

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PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-81   (Canceled)

82.   (New) A method of issuing digital licenses from a licensor for a corresponding piece of digital content, the content originally having been issued by a retailer, the method comprising:

the licensor receiving a first license request for a first license from a first customer in connection with the content, the first customer having received a copy of the content from the retailer, the first request including retailer information associated with the corresponding piece of digital content and identifying the retailer;

the licensor receiving a payment from the first customer in connection with the first license request;

the licensor retrieving the retailer information from the first license request and identifying the retailer therefrom;

the licensor crediting the identified retailer for a portion of the payment received in connection with the first license request;

the licensor receiving a second license request for a second license from a second customer in connection with the content, the second customer having received a copy of the content from the first customer, the second request including first customer information associated with the corresponding piece of digital content and identifying the first customer;

the licensor receiving a payment from the second customer in connection with the second license request;

the licensor retrieving the first customer information from the license request and identifying the first customer therefrom; and

the licensor crediting the first customer for a portion of the payment received in connection with the second license request.

83.   (New) The method of claim 82 wherein crediting the first customer comprises recording the first customer information in a database for accounting purposes, the database

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including an entry for each first customer information, each entry including a count for counting the number of times a license has been issued for the specific first customer information combination, such recording comprising:

finding the first customer information entry in the database corresponding to the first customer information of the second request, or creating such sub-entry if none is present; and

incrementing the count in such entry.

84.   (New) The method of claim 83 wherein crediting the identified first customer comprises crediting the first customer according to the count in the entry.

85.   (New) The method of claim 82 comprising:

receiving the second license request for the license from the second customer, the second request including first customer information associated with the corresponding piece of digital content and identifying the first customer, and a content identification identifying the content, the method further comprising:

retrieving the content identification from the second license request and identifying the content therefrom;

the method comprising crediting the identified first customer according to the identified content.

86.   (New) The method of claim 85 further comprising recording the first customer information and content identification in a database for accounting purposes, the database including an entry for each content identification, each content identification entry including a sub-entry for each first customer information related to such content identification, each sub-entry including a count for counting the number of times a license has been issued for the specific content identification–first customer information combination, such recording comprising:

finding the content identification entry in the database corresponding to the content identification of the second request, or creating such entry if none is present;

finding, under such content identification entry, the first customer information sub-entry in the database corresponding to the first customer information of the request, or creating such sub-entry if none is present; and

incrementing the count in such sub-entry.

87.   (New) The method of claim 86 wherein crediting the identified first customer comprises crediting the first customer according to the count in the sub-entry.

88.   (New) The method of claim 85 comprising:

receiving the license request for the license from the second customer, the second request including first customer information associated with the corresponding piece of digital content and identifying the first customer, a content identification identifying the content, and content distribution information associated with the corresponding piece of digital content and uniquely identifying the content as distributed by the first customer, the method further comprising:

retrieving the content distribution information from the license request and identifying the content as distributed by the first customer therefrom;

the method comprising crediting the identified first customer according to the identified content and identified content as distributed by the first customer.

89.   (New) The method of claim 88 further comprising recording the first customer information, content identification, and content distribution information in a database for accounting purposes, the database including an entry for each content identification, each content identification entry including a sub-entry for each customer distribution information and first customer information combination related to such content identification, each sub-entry including a count for counting the number of times a license has been issued for the specific content identification– customer distribution information – first customer information combination, such recording comprising:

finding the content identification entry in the database corresponding to the content identification of the second request, or creating such entry if none is present;

finding, under such content identification entry, the customer distribution information
—first customer information sub-entry in the database corresponding to the customer
distribution information —first customer information of the second request, or creating such
sub-entry if none is present; and

incrementing the count in such sub-entry.

90.   (New) The method of claim 89 wherein crediting the identified first customer
comprises crediting the first customer according to the count in the sub-entry.

91.   (New) The method of claim 88 wherein receiving the second license request
comprises receiving the second license request as addressed to a site identified by a site
identifier, the site identifier including the content distribution information attached thereto,
and wherein retrieving the content distribution information comprises retrieving the content
distribution information as attached to the site identifier.

92.   (New) The method of claim 82 further comprising issuing the license to the
second customer.

93.   (New) The method of claim 82 wherein receiving the license request
comprises receiving the second license request as addressed to a site identified by a site
identifier, the site identifier including the first customer information attached thereto, and
wherein retrieving the first customer information comprises retrieving the first customer
information as attached to the site identifier.

94.   (New) The method of claim 82 wherein the payment comprises a non-
monetary payment.

95.   (New) The method of claim 94 wherein the payment is selected from a group
consisting of earned credits, barter chits, a promise to perform a function, and combinations
thereof.

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96.   (New) The method of claim 82 wherein the second customer is the first customer.

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97.   (New) The method of claim 82 wherein the second customer is not the first customer.